

# World Myths Project

In order to learn more about the mythology of other cultures besides the classical Greek and Romans, you will be participating in a research project. In a group of 2-4, you will examine the mythology of one of the cultures listed below, and share what you learn with the rest of the class. Each group will have a different culture to research.

## Cultures

You must select one of the following groups:

- Norse mythology
- Celtic mythology
- Egyptian mythology
- Native American mythology
  - Southwest (West of the Mississippi River)
  - East (east of the Mississippi River)
  - North (Canada, Alaska)
- Oceanic mythology (Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, Hawaiian, surrounding islands)
- Central/South American mythology
  - Mexico (Aztec)
  - Inca
  - Mayan
- Chinese/Far East mythology
- Indian (country of India) mythology
- African mythology
- Slavic mythology (Russia, Poland, Transylvania, Balkans, etc.)

## Information Needed

You must find information on the following topics:

- Overview of the society whose myths you are presenting
  - **How are the myths representative of the society?**
- Primary god/gods and their roles (overview)
- Myth of the creation of the world
- Myth of the creation of humans
- 2 explanatory myths (i.e. Why are there seasons?)
- 1 hero myth and/or 1 “monster” story
- 1 tale of love
- 1 myth that teaches a moral lesson (**and explain what the lesson is**)

**\*\*** You should become an expert on the mythology that your group presents. I will create a test over each civilization based on your presentations. You will take the portion of the test that refers to the segment that you taught.

## Project Requirements

You must complete the following components for your project, and will be responsible for teaching the class your culture's mythology.

- A PowerPoint presentation (12 slides minimum) NOTE: Make sure slides are **readable** (Font size, color, amount of information on slide, etc.)
  - Overview of the society
  - Overview of the key gods/goddesses
  - Creation stories (world and humans)
  - At least one other tale
- A note sheet to go along with your presentation, so your classmates don't have to write down every word on your slides or in your presentation
  - Make sure to include each of the key gods on your note sheet
- A creative presentation of one tale
  - Create a video,
  - Act out in class,
  - Make a "reader's theater" (play for the class to read),
  - Tell the story through a puppet show,
  - Create a children's book
  - Tell the story through letters written back and forth between characters
  - Scrapbook diary of the main character
  - Comic book-style re-telling
  - Write/perform a song that tells the story
  - An idea of your own (clear with me first)
- One Review Activity with 20 items of knowledge minimum, and an answer key
  - Knowledge game (memory match, puzzle, Jeopardy!, etc.)
  - Crossword (not word search)
  - Questions
- 15-question quiz/test, with an answer key over the information you present to class
  - **Make sure to take your own quiz before you give it to the class!!!**
- A "Works Cited" page, including all resources used in presentation

Note: **You must include all required tales in your presentation.** You may present the remaining required tales in whatever manner you choose (as part of your PowerPoint, as an additional creative activity, as a handout to read in class)

**Projects are worth 250 points.** 1/3 of your grade will be the overall group grade, and 2/3 of your grade will be your individual contributions to the overall project.

## Due dates:

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- 6 PowerPoint slides completed
  - Summary of 7 required tales, list of main gods/areas, & overview of society turned in

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- Remaining requirements completed
  - Presentations begin
    - Note: Mrs. Trometter will make all copies needed for your presentation, provided they are turned in by the due date of the project

### Reminders for PowerPoints:

- Make slides visually interesting.
  - Include pictures where appropriate, especially of the key gods/goddesses and aspects of the society.
  - Choose appropriate animation and sounds
    - Err on the side of restraint when it comes to slide animation and sounds. Use animation to help clarify, contribute or enhance your message.
      - For example, animation can help when words slide in from the left or appear suddenly to make a point.
      - Do not use overly time-consuming animations. Stick to basic ones such as appear, fly in, wipe, fade, or box (out).
- Slides should be a *summary of key information*, to be used as talking points, not the complete information
  - With PowerPoint presentations, use no more than 7-10 lines of text per slide, so that the words don't overpower the slide and confuse the viewer. Phrases and keywords are better than whole sentences, since they are easily digested by the audience.
  - Do NOT read the slide word for word. You should include the key pieces of information, and then elaborate on that information in your presentation.
  - Do NOT just cut and paste information you find on the internet. Read it, understand it, and summarize key aspects!
- Slides need to be readable
  - Consider the background – is it too busy or too dark/light, so that it interferes with the readability of the text?
  - Make sure that the font is large enough so that it is readable from the back of the classroom.
    - Break it into multiple slides if necessary.
    - Title slides should be typed in 32-50 fonts and bulleted lists are best read in 20-32 fonts.
- Provide enough time for students to take notes after you finish speaking for each slide, before advancing to the next slide
  - If students and teacher are too busy scribbling notes/filling in blanks, they are not listening to what you are saying.

### Tips for Note Sheets

- Provide note sheets that have a majority of the key points from your presentation, with spaces to indicate pieces of information that need to be written down.
- Provide sufficient space for handwritten notes
  - (for instance, do not just remove typed words and leave the same amount of space. Handwriting is not as small as type.)
- If name of gods, places, etc. are long, complicated, and/or unfamiliar, include those as a part of your notes, and leave out more familiar words for them to write down in their notes
  - For example: Michilantecutli-God of \_\_\_\_\_  
instead of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_-God of Underworld

### Tips for Review Activities & Quizzes

- Make sure that the information on both of these portions is included in your presentation!
  - Group members should complete both the worksheet and quiz prior to turning it in to be copied to make sure that they match your presentation
- These should focus on KEY information, that you emphasize in your presentation
- Focus on elements of stories, rather than on names, unless they are very important ones
  - This is especially true for the quiz